

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated April 17, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 18-35 are withdrawn in this application. Claims 12-17 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 12, 14, and 16 have been amended. Claims 12-35 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,279,035 to Skerlos (hereinafter "Skerlos") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,713,040 to Lee (hereinafter "Lee").

The rejection of claims 12-17 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 12 and 13 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "determining the absence or the presence of the input signal if the number of the signal of the first state is not less than a predetermined plural number during a predetermined interval" Claims 14 and 15 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "determining the absence or the presence of the input signal if the number of the signal of the first state is not less than a predetermined plural number during a predetermined interval." Claims 16 and 17 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "determining the absence or the presence of the input signal if the number of the signal of the first state is not less than a predetermined plural number during a predetermined interval." Neither Skerlos nor Lee does teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 12-17 are allowable over Skerlos and Lee.

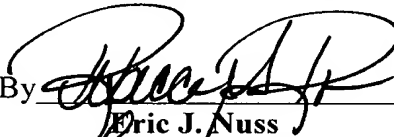
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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